

# Outdoor Wire

TIPS OUTDOOR WRITERS AND EDITORS CAN USE

## 4 TIPS FOR TRAVELING WITH A SPORTING DOG

Whether trekking to the Canadian prairies in the summer with bird dogs or venturing South for the winter with retrievers, for some road warriors, pulling trailers and dog boxes is a way of life. Regardless of the time and distance of your trip, follow these tips from those who have learned first-hand what to expect when traveling with dogs.

**1 Veterinarian On Standby** “Research veterinarians who can treat canine athletes near your destination so that you’re prepared in case of emergency,” advises Randy Anderson, a pro trainer of elite bird dogs in the all-age field trialing segment, who recently drove with his string of 40 English Setters and Pointers, plus eight horses, to Westhope, North Dakota, about a 20-hour trip from his [Crosscountry Kennels](#) in Vinita, Oklahoma, for summer training.

**2 First Aid to the Rescue** Like Anderson, pro retriever trainer Mike Stewart of [Wildrose Kennels](#) in Oxford, Mississippi, knows the value of researching veterinarians ahead of time. When Stewart was pheasant hunting this past November in North Dakota with his Lab “Deke,” the [official Ducks Unlimited dog](#), he also realized the importance of traveling with a fully stocked [canine first-aid kit](#). “Deke was quartering in heavy cover when his rear leg got tangled in some old barbed wire near the field’s edge. He had a two-inch cut just below his knee, which I immediately cleaned and wrapped using supplies from my first-aid kit. Because it was Sunday, the nearest veterinarian’s office was closed, but I was able to locate an on-call veterinarian who could stitch up Deke’s wound.”

**3 Bring Your Own H<sub>2</sub>O** Bring several gallons of water from home as a consistent H<sub>2</sub>O source for your dog to maintain healthy hydration. Dehydration can be dangerous because it increases your dog’s heart’s workload, impairs the delivery of nutrients and removal of waste from the muscles, and reduces your dog’s ability to maintain a normal body temperature. “I encourage my dogs to drink by bait-



ing water with a small handful of kibble,” says Anderson, who is on the road nearly nine months of the year traveling for training and field trialing. “On hot travel days, you also can cut blocks of ice and place in bowls for dogs that are in crates in the back of a truck or trailer to lick.”

**4 Mind Your Ps & Qs** [Basic obedience](#) matters. “I’ve stopped in areas where I’ve seen vehicle doors open, and dogs bolt out and run all over the place. This puts the dog at risk of being hit by a car or getting into something he or she shouldn’t, such as diesel fuel or antifreeze,” says Stewart, a frequent traveler to Wildrose’s other training facilities in Arkansas and Colorado. “You can avoid accidents while stopped in a parking lot or rest area by training your dog to ‘stay’ when you open the vehicle door or dog box.” It’s a good idea to keep your dog on lead in busy areas. If you find a safe, remote area to air your dog off lead, make sure you can stay in control of your dog and clean up any mess.

## PLANNING A TRIP? TRY FORTIFLORA!

To help stabilize your dog’s immune system prior to a trip, try giving [Purina Pro Plan Veterinary Diets FortiFlora](#) canine nutritional supplement once a day for at least a week in advance. Containing a special strain of probiotic proven to promote intestinal health and balance, *Enterococcus faecium* SF68, FortiFlora may help nutritionally manage diarrhea from stressful situations such as traveling and unfamiliar environments.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Travel is not restful for a dog. Allow your sporting dog time to fully recover after a long day in the vehicle by finding a quiet place that maximizes rest and minimizes stress.

## ADVICE FROM A PRO

“Dogs are creatures of habit that thrive on repetition and predictability. Establish a travel feeding, hydration and airing schedule, and practice that routine with your dog before you hit the road.”

— Mike Stewart, pro retriever trainer and owner of [Wildrose Kennels](#)

## DON'T MISS

- **Sept. 29 to Oct. 9** The retriever cream of the crop sailing through challenging land and water marks and blinds at the [AKC Master National](#) (St. Louis)



**Need an Interview with a Road Warrior Team in Your Area? Better Call Kayla!** Make [Purina Pro Plan](#) your go-to resource on training, conditioning and nutrition information for sporting dogs! For deeper-dive articles, stock photography, and help reaching expert sources, Purina nutritionists, and professional trainers such as Mike Stewart or Randy Anderson, please contact Kayla Miller at [kayla.miller@purina.nestle.com](mailto:kayla.miller@purina.nestle.com) or 314-982-3285.